

REMARKS

The Office Action of June 14, 2006 has been reviewed and the comments therein were carefully considered. Claims 1-32 are pending in the application. Claims 1-32 stand rejected. As explained in more detail below, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request such action.

Rejections Under 35 USC §102

Claims 1-32 are rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by McKenna, Jr. (US Patent 6,915,528 B1). The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection in view of the following remarks.

The Applicant submits with this response a declaration pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.131 to show that Applicants had conceived of the invention prior to the filing date of McKenna and that they had diligently reduced this invention to practice by the filing of the instant patent application. In view of this declaration, the Applicant therefore requests withdrawal of this ground for rejection.

CONCLUSION

The Applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicit prompt notification of the same. Should the Examiner believe that a conversation with Applicant's representative would be useful in the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to call Applicant's representative.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 1, 2006

By:



Shawn P. Gorman
Registration No. 56,197

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.
10 South Wacker Drive
Suite 3000
Chicago, IL 60606-7407
Telephone: (312) 463-5000
Facsimile: (312) 463-5001